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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/667,648	09/22/2000	Paul F. Mackin	1958.2006-000	1149
21005	7590	11/10/2003	EXAMINER	
HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C. 530 VIRGINIA ROAD P.O. BOX 9133 CONCORD, MA 01742-9133			BARQADLE, YASIN M	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2153		

DATE MAILED: 11/10/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)						
	09/667,648	MACKIN ET AL.						
Period for Reply	Examiner	Art Unit						
	Yasin M Barqadle	2153						
<i>-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --</i>								
<p>A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely. - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). - Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b). 								
<p>Status</p> <p>1)<input type="checkbox"/> Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____ .</p> <p>2a)<input type="checkbox"/> This action is FINAL. 2b)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This action is non-final.</p> <p>3)<input type="checkbox"/> Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i>, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.</p>								
<p>Disposition of Claims</p> <p>4)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-57</u> is/are pending in the application.</p> <p>4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.</p> <p>5)<input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.</p> <p>6)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-57</u> is/are rejected.</p> <p>7)<input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.</p> <p>8)<input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.</p>								
<p>Application Papers</p> <p>9)<input type="checkbox"/> The specification is objected to by the Examiner.</p> <p>10)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The drawing(s) filed on <u>22 September 2000</u> is/are: a)<input type="checkbox"/> accepted or b)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).</p> <p>11)<input type="checkbox"/> The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a)<input type="checkbox"/> approved b)<input type="checkbox"/> disapproved by the Examiner. If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.</p> <p>12)<input type="checkbox"/> The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.</p>								
<p>Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120</p> <p>13)<input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).</p> <p>a)<input type="checkbox"/> All b)<input type="checkbox"/> Some * c)<input type="checkbox"/> None of:</p> <p>1.<input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.</p> <p>2.<input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____ .</p> <p>3.<input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).</p> <p>* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.</p> <p>14)<input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).</p> <p>a) <input type="checkbox"/> The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.</p> <p>15)<input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.</p>								
<p>Attachment(s)</p> <table> <tr> <td>1)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</td> <td>4)<input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____ .</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</td> <td>5)<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4 .</td> <td>6)<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</td> </tr> </table>			1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____ .	2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)	3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4 .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____ .							
2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)							
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4 .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____							

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-57 are presented for examination.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p) (4) because reference character ``1600'' in fig. 3, has been used to designate both ``workflow package'' and ``resource provider''. See the specification page 7, paragraph 2. Also, labels 1410, 1420 and 1430 in fig. 3 are referenced as 1610, 1620 and 1630 on page 7, paragraph 2. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an

application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Barry et al US (6615258).

As per claim 1, Barry et al teach a method for interacting with a client (fig.2, 20) in a distributed computing environment having a plurality of computing nodes (fig. 2) interconnected to form a cluster (cluster 24, fig. 2), the method comprising:

connecting a client to a master node of the cluster [fig.2 and col. 7, lines 29-57];

associating a message list to the client on the master node [Col. 18, lines 17-66];

performing tasks for the client on a plurality of nodes of the cluster [Col. 18, lines 19-66];

detecting an event while performing one of the tasks [Col. 18, lines 56 to col. 19, line 16. see also col. 21, lines 25 to line 22 line 32];

storing a message on the message list descriptive of the detected event [col. 22, lines 33 to Col. 23, lines 50]; and

communicating the message to the client [col. 25, lines 40-65 and col. 44, lines 14-55].

As per claim 2, Barry et al teach the method of Claim 1 wherein the event is detected on a node different from the master node [Col. 18, lines 56 to col. 19, line 16. see also col. 21, lines 25 to line 22 line 32].

As per claim 3, Barry et al teach the method of Claim 1 further comprising, on the master node, establishing an object unique to the client for interfacing with the client [col. 8, lines 12-58]. As per claim 4, Barry et al teach the method of Claim 3 wherein the object is accessible across the cluster [col. 8, lines 12-58].

As per claim 5, Barry et al teach the method of Claim 1 wherein communicating comprises formatting a message code into a message string [col. 16, lines 5-20 and col. 36, lines 20-54].

As per claim 6, Barry et al teach the method of Claim 1 wherein storing comprises formatting a message code into a message string [col. 16, lines 5-20 and col. 36, lines 20-54].

As per claim 7, Barry et al teach the method of Claim 1 further comprising structuring the message list as a stack [col. 32, lines 39-56].

As per claim 8, Barry et al teach the invention further comprising a failing over the master node to another node on the

cluster in response to a failover event on the master node [col. 59, lines 49 to col. 60, line 25].

As per claim 9, Barry et al teach the method of Claim 1 wherein the event is an error event [col. 61, lines 27-61].

As per claim 10, Barry et al teach the method of Claim 1 wherein the event is a dialogue event [col. 61, lines 27-61].

As per claims 11, 30 and 49, Barry et al teach a method, system and an article of manufacture for interacting with a client in a distributed computing environment having a plurality of computing nodes interconnected to form a cluster, the method comprising:

connecting a client to a master node of the cluster [fig.2 and col. 7, lines 29-57];

creating a distributed object on the master node to interface with the client [col. 8, lines 12-58];

associating a client manager having a message list with the client on the master node [Col. 18, lines 9-66 and col. 54, lines 23-62];

performing tasks for the client on a plurality of nodes of the cluster [Col. 18, lines 9-66 and col. 54, lines 23-62];

detecting an event while performing one of the tasks [Col. 18, lines 56 to col. 19, line 16. see also col. 21, lines 25 to line 22 line 32];

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storing a message on the error list descriptive of the detected event [Col. 18, lines 56 to col. 19, line 16; col. 23, lines 6-50. See also col. 21, lines 34 to col. 22 line 32]; and communicating the message to the client through the distributed object [col. 25, lines 40-65 and col. 44, lines 3-55].

As per claims 12, 31 and 50, Barry et al teach the invention further comprising, in the client manager, tracking a plurality of contexts for the client, each context having a respective message list [col. 11, lines 1-18 and col. 21, lines 34 to col. 22 line 32].

As per claims 13, 32 and 51, Barry et al teach the invention wherein the event is detected on a node different from the master node [col. 21, lines 25 to line 22 line 32 and col. 44, lines 3-40].

As per claims 14, 33 and 52, Barry et al teach the invention, wherein communicating comprises formatting a message code into a message string [col. 16, lines 5-20 and col. 36, lines 20-54].

As per claims 15, 34 and 53, Barry et al teach the invention wherein storing comprises formulating a message code into a message string [col. 16, lines 5-20 and col. 36, lines 20-54].

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As per claims 16, 35 and 54, Barry et al teach the invention further comprising structuring the message list as a stack [col. 32, lines 39-56].

As per claims 17, 36 and 55, Barry et al teach the invention further comprising failing over the master node to another node on the cluster in response to a failover event on the master node [col. 59, lines 49 to col. 60, line 25].

As per claims 18, 37 and 56, Barry et al teach the invention wherein the event is an error event [col. 61, lines 27-61].

As per claims 19, 38 and 57, Barry et al teach the invention wherein the event is a dialogue event [col. 61, lines 27-61].

As per claims 20 and 39, these are system and an article of manufacture claims with similar limitations as claim 1 above. Therefore, they are rejected with the same rationale.

As per claims 21 and 40, Barry et al teach the invention wherein the event is detected on a node different from the master node [col. 21, lines 25 to line 22 line 32 and col. 44, lines 3-40].

As per claims 22 and 41, Barry et al teach the invention further comprising, on the master node, an object unique to the client for interfacing, with the client [col. 8, lines 12-58].

As per claims 23 and 42, Barry et al teach the invention wherein the object is accessible across the cluster [col. 8, lines 12-58].

As per claims 24 and 43, Barry et al teach the invention wherein a message code is formatted into a message string for communication to the client [col. 16, lines 5-20 and col. 36, lines 20-54].

As per claims 25 and 44, Barry et al teach the invention wherein a message code is formatted into a message string for storage on the message list [col. 32, lines 39-56].

As per claims 26 and 45, Barry et al teach the invention wherein the message list is structured as a stack [col. 32, lines 39-56].

As per claims 27 and 46, Barry et al teach the invention further comprising a fail safe module for failing over the master node to another node on the cluster in response to a failover event on the master node [col. 59, lines 49 to col. 60, line 25].

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As per claims 28 and 47, Barry et al teach the invention wherein the event is an error event [col. 61, lines 27-61].

As per claims 29 and 48, Barry et al teach the invention wherein the event is a dialogue event [col. 61, lines 27-61].

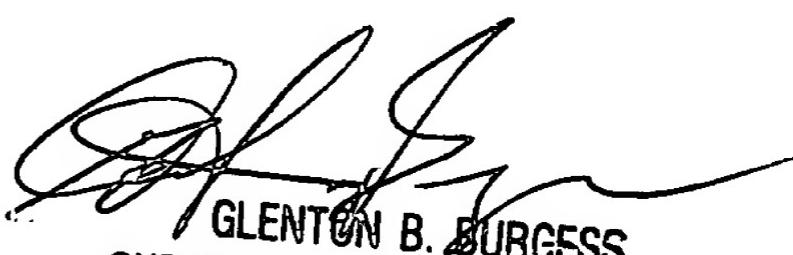
Conclusion

The prior made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yasin Barqadle whose telephone number is 703-305-5971. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Burgess can be reached on 703-305-9717. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.



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